

## New York Tribune.

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## The Scope and Value of Mediation.

General Huerta's protest to the A B C mediators against what he considers a violation of the military status quo in and about Vera Cruz shows again by what frail threads the mediation project hangs. No definite terms of armistice have been drawn up, and both sides are free to interpret for themselves the shadowy compact assumed to exist. Mr. Bryan's only assurance to the mediators was that the United States would proceed on the understanding that no hostile act would be committed by either side. Yet a disagreement might easily arise at any moment over the scope of the measures taken by General Huerta to make more secure the position of the American forces in Vera Cruz.

The mediators are continuing their preparations to meet in neutral territory—at Niagara Falls, Canada. But what are the issues on which they will endeavor to bring about a settlement? Two weeks ago, when he accepted the good offices of Argentina, Brazil and Chile, Mr. Bryan wrote: "This government hopes most earnestly that you may find those who speak for the several elements of the Mexican people willing and ready to discuss terms of satisfactory, and therefore permanent, settlement." That looked toward a solution of the underlying Mexican problem—the restoration of order and of efficient and responsible government. But such a restoration could be accomplished by mediation only if the Constitutional faction participated and bound itself in advance to work in harmony with the Mexico City government and the United States. With the withdrawal of Carranza the character of the mediation has changed and its purposes have become confused and obscure.

At a meeting of the Pan-American Union in Washington on Thursday Mr. Bryan made a brief address which seemed to acknowledge the drift of mediation toward greater indefiniteness. He expressed the government's appreciation of the friendliness of the A B C powers in tendering their good offices, but significantly described the mediation as "an effort to adjust the differences between this government and General Huerta and such other matters as are necessarily related thereto."

"Necessarily related thereto" covers a multitude of diplomatic uncertainties. If Huerta is willing to accept a mediation aiming at his own elimination and the re-establishment of order, and, if practicable, of constitutional government, then Mr. Bryan's phrase may hold out hope. But if anything less than that is intended, hope will be vain. It will profit the United States little to get rid of Huerta and then have to deal with anarchy in Middle and Southern Mexico. Mediation will only scratch the surface if it does not provide for a "permanent and therefore satisfactory" readjustment of political conditions in Mexico.

## The Child Defective and the Public.

Examination of the thirteen-year-old girl who set fire to Public School 170 last Monday has proved her to be a defective. Sent by Judge Hoyt, of the Children's Court, to the Clearing House for Mental Defectives for examination, she showed the mentality of a child of seven. It was recommended that she be committed to an institution, with this comment: "If she had received proper institutional care in 1911, when her backwardness was first perceived, she might have been saved from becoming virtually a pyromaniac, and the lives of 3,500 other pupils protected from danger."

With this information comes the statement that at present "commitment" to any such institution only means that a name will go to the bottom of a long waiting list. The state's hospitals and institutions for defectives are overcrowded; they are constantly clamoring for appropriations to enlarge their work and their facilities. It is certain that work of this nature is as necessary as any the state could do. It is lack of economy not to do it.

## Ballot Frauds and the Voorhis Charges.

With twenty fresh indictments returned by the grand jury for election frauds in Murphy's own Assembly district District Attorney Whitman's investigation into ballot box stuffing in the recent special election seems only well begun. There are other districts in the city where results have been certified whose figures are as suspicious as those in Murphy's district which first attracted attention. They, too, need the probe.

It seems especially pertinent that while the grand jury was handing down these indictments counsel for Mr. Voorhis, the State Superintendent of Elections, was arguing for the dismissal of the charge of inefficiency and maladministration pending against him. The gist of these charges is that Voorhis, an old man, let his office be used for political purposes in the appointment of unfit deputies and active political workers as deputies in the districts in which they lived and had their political influence. It is all of a piece with the system which facilitated the election frauds on which these latest indictments are based.

If Voorhis's office had been as efficient as the money it costs ought to make it, it is unlikely that these frauds could have been perpetrated or would have been attempted. This state has an elaborate identification provision in the election law, and in the superintendents of elections and their staff an elaborate machine for preventing and detecting election fraud. Yet the District Attorney's investigation has disclosed as crude and clumsy and obvious a fraud as ever was attempted. The two events are interrelated; they cannot be separated. Voorhis is discredited, or, at least, the management of his office is discredited, by the fact that material existed to warrant these other indictments. The charges against him, in the light of recent ballot

box stuffing, must be probed in spite of all his lawyer's protests.

## Justice to Mr. O'Shaughnessy.

The administration would show a strange lack of appreciation if it failed to reward Nelson O'Shaughnessy for his admirable work as chargé d'affaires in Mexico City. He had to bear the brunt there of our government's difficult and illogical attitude toward the Huerta administration. On the one hand he was expected to maintain a strict official reserve toward a *de facto* President whom the United States was unwilling to recognize and, on the other, he was required to present all kinds of official demands to that boycotted Executive. It was a task calling for an exhibition of the surest tact and keenest judgment.

It is rumored that Special Agent John Lind, who spent most of his time in Mexico slaughtering in Vera Cruz, endeavored to prejudice the administration against Mr. O'Shaughnessy because the latter maintained friendly personal relations with Huerta. But that he was able to maintain such relations and to profit by them was in itself evidence of his capacity for the post he held. It is the essence of good diplomacy to do business in trying situations without exciting personal animosities. Mr. O'Shaughnessy's attitude toward Huerta was not only correct, but it was helpful to this government. He deserves the most generous consideration from Mr. Bryan and Mr. Wilson.

## Meriden's Count of Monte Cristo.

It is hard to put an extinguisher on the adventurous temperament. No one would have thought of associating the spirit of romance with Meriden, Conn., a steady-going town near the heart of the state of steady habits. But you can't always tell. According to the testimony which has been given this week before the Interstate Commerce Commission Meriden has developed a flesh and blood master of the art of making dollars grow where none grew before alongside of whom Colonel Mulberry Sellers and the Count of Monte Cristo look like pale shadows from the world of unreality.

Many modest fortunes in Connecticut are reputed to have been founded on the sale of wooden nutmegs. It was left to the genius of John L. Billard to devise a wooden nutmeg corporation by writing a few entries in whose books (now burned) the inventor was enabled to run up a profit of \$2,748,700. The general public may not be able to understand Mr. Billard's dramatic narrative of the manner in which he wrote himself into that handy sum of money. But facts speak louder than words. There is the \$2,748,700, created out of airy nothing. Romance and adventure certainly are not dead in the happy section of territory tributary to the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad.

## The Case of the Women Probation Officers.

The Board of Estimate is probably justified in its decision that the plea of the Federation of Women's Clubs for five more women probation officers in Manhattan should be addressed to the Board of Magistrates. It was action of the magistrates which caused the five women to be dropped and the appropriation in the 1914 budget to be reduced. And as the probation officers work under the magistrates and are assigned to cases by them, it is only reasonable that efforts to change this state of affairs be concentrated on the judges.

Nevertheless, this protest should be made, and made vigorously, wherever it can have influence. There are more than 20,000 women who come before the police courts of Manhattan and The Bronx in a year—women a large proportion of whom are not hardened offenders and irremediable. The probation system was devised for such and it works. It seems inevitable that it should work better with most of those women if women probation officers handled their cases than if men had the job; for no man, however able, sympathetic and trustworthy, could obtain the confidence of an unfortunate woman as another woman could.

The magistrates may have had good reasons for dropping the five women officers and asking for the appointment of five men in their places. If so they will be glad to give their reasons, and if the latter are in the public interest no mere question of sex should interfere. If, on the other hand, the women were displaced solely because they were women, as some of their champions insist, the magistrates will have a lot of difficult explaining to do.

## The Polo Challenge in Doubt.

There seems to be no question that the English polo challengers have failed to reach their expected form and that a withdrawal of the challenge is a possibility. The criticism of Lord Wimborne's team in the English newspapers has been most severe. Apparently its practice in Spain went for nothing, and the new four found itself quite unable to hold its own against fast combinations, especially one with the magic name of Buckmaster in it.

What the cause of this disappointing showing is the critics are unable to decide. It has always been considered that England, largely owing to its regimental polo, had a far larger number of first grade poloists to draw from than we have. But the present fiasco scarcely bears out this view. Undoubtedly there is a larger body of competent players in England than here. When it comes to the great masters of the game, a Buckmaster or a Millburn, the two countries are probably not so far apart. Such geniuses are rare in any sport, and a country, however active in the game, which can produce a team of the quality of our old "Big Four" can count itself extremely lucky.

The wish in this country is, of course, strong for a series of matches. If Lord Wimborne's team falls by the wayside, it is to be hoped that some other arrangement can be made by which Hurlingham will again be represented at Westbury.

## Feminism Means What It Says.

There is a chuckle and a touch of truth in the fact that Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, of the feminist vanguard, ended her revolutionary lectures with a word upon dressmaking. The ending was accidental. But so many other feminists of our acquaintance are fond of turning 'n the same direction that the incident takes on importance.

The earlier woman's rights movement in this country and elsewhere had a good deal of masculinism about it. Trousers and stiff collars were the outward and visible signs of a sex astray. The new idea about woman then held was that her business was the imitation of man.

It is the sane and refreshing side of the feminist movement of to-day that it contemplates no such abnormality. The very name of the thing explains that woman is not trying to be a man, but merely to be herself—more intensely and more completely than ever before. It is not mere chance that your modern feminist pays as much attention to her frocks as to her soul. That is her philosophy, her rule of life.

And, esteeming feminine charm as highly as we do, it is surely permissible to hope that in this regard her philosophy may never falter.

## The Conning Tower

## The Ball Game

By OUR OWN WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

I met a little Gotham girl  
Upon the city street;  
She wore a merry fish-hook curl,  
And all her ways were sweet.

She said that she would like to go  
The baseball game to see,  
But rain prevented it, and, oh,  
The difference to me!

The lily on its waving stem,  
The roses in the store—  
A summer shower 'twas to them,  
And it was nothing more.

Oh ever thus from childhood's hour  
I've seen my hopes decay.  
How often hath a summer shower  
Washed all my life away!

We are between Scylla and Pythias, as the feller said. "Writing," says Ambassador Page, "is an absurd career and a foolish, foolhardy business. No man has a right to take it up who can avoid doing so." But from Doubleday, Page & Co. we receive this: "We are making up dummies of the fall list. Could you send us a few poems for that purpose?"

As we assimilate these, it seems that Ambassador Page's "who can avoid doing so" lets us out. And so [bus. of saving stamp] all right. Will send along the copy for "By and Large" next week.

## APPOSITE, BUT OVERLONG.

Sir: From a Fifth Avenue bus I lamped the sign, "Oriental Rugs Made to Order." This suggests to me a title for the b. of v.—"Honey of Hymettus, Made in Gotham."

SILAS.

"There were only nine jurors in the box," said yesterday's World. Six, it meant to say. The error was made thus: The first operator dropped the "s," making it "ix jurors." The operator who got the line to reset thought Roman numerals cryptic, so he made it "nine."

## PROOFROOM ELUDERS.

Lord Wimborne. Lord Wimburn.  
Lord Wimburne. Lord Winborne.

"About going to Mexico," writes Booth Tarkington to a syndicate that hinted at the possibility of it, "last Friday I had two teeth sawed off and seven live nerves extracted at one sitting and yet I'm darned if I want to go to Mexico for the summer. The dentist didn't pay me anything for what he did to me and I doubt if Huerta'd pay me anything for what he'd do if he found me. . . . I'm the kind of man that hangs around the fire-engine house, hoping to get into a game of checkers."

## MYRTILLA PISCATRIX.

There was a little girl, and she wore a fish-hook curl  
Right in the middle of her forehead—  
It had been her ambition to land some weighty fish,  
But it only landed shrimps—and was horrid.

H. K. S.

The vacuum cleaner has practically zero on the lady in Gouverneur Morris's story in Harper's Bazar, who "swept the room with one scornful glance." Still, an *Contributor* suggests, housekeeping is shamefully easy these days.

## WRONG, AS USUAL.

FPA: Whenever I land in the Tower my brother gets peeved and says he can get in any oldtimepleases, only he hasn't the time, etc. I have reason to suspect, however, that he has been contributing in vain for some time. AM I RIGHT?

EDAR.

Watch for the illustrated account of the McAdoo-Wilson wedding. In Sunday's *GOTHAM WEEKLY GAZETTE*.—Advt.

## THE DIARY OF OUR OWN SAMUEL PEPPS.

May 7.—Up very betimes, and to meet Will Orr the gazetteer, but on the way I did spy W. Trumbull and Julian Street in W's petroleum wagon, and had them convey me instead of having to ride in Mr. Belmont's underground railroad. Julian is returned from a long trip over the whole country and is full of interesting tales concerning what he saw and observed. With Will Orr to the court, and played all the morning, and with fair success. Thence to the office and did a bit of work and thence with I. Remsen and A. Thomas to dinner and we had a great beefsteak, which they feared would be too large for us, but I told them, never fear, forasmuch as I have never had my fill of beefsteak yet. Nor, as it appeared, was there too much by an ounce.

8.—Early to the court and met there Mistress Elizabeth Moore, a fine pleasant lady, and we had two sets, and I did manage to win one of them, which I was very happy over. Thence to my office for a space and home to dinner, where was G. Plank the draughting artist, and we did have some cakes which nobody liked but me so I did have four of them. To the city then until midnight, writing a few trivialities, and sorry there was not more weight to my scribbles. But, methought, I have no weighty thoughts, so how can I express great things? So, somewhat downhearted, home and to bed.

"If you had thought of it," postcards A. W. "would you have called the colurm a Tower de force?" Not if we had known you wanted to, old splinter.

## Our Own War Photographs.

Looking eastward  
from Vera Cruz,  
yesterday morning  
at 4:59.

An enterprising Nassau street confectioner advertises "Maple Pecan Kisses. Formerly Mexican Kisses."

"WHOM ARE YOU SAID CYRIL."  
(From Printer's Ink.)

W. K. Page got in touch with a number of disaffected men selling bonds on commission whom he felt would consider a change.

Re-revised motto for Pittsburgh team: First.

After the ex-managers of the Cincinnati team have their meeting at Madison Square Garden, the Former-Attorneys-of-Becker Club asks for the next open date.

Lord Clifton was a colurm conductor at heart.

His motto was *Finem respice*, or Look to the end.  
F. P. A.

## IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS.



—Now, burn the Books!

## THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

## THE DEAD AT VERA CRUZ

Did Respect for the Flag Justify Their Sacrifice?

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: Within a few days President Wilson and Secretary of the Navy Daniels will be in New York to help receive the bodies of the American boys who were killed at Vera Cruz. It is perfectly proper that they should be there, for no one is more responsible for the deaths of these young Americans than Wilson and Daniels, and possibly Mr. Bryan.

No one has higher respect for the flag of the United States than I, and no one would be more willing to go to war for his country's sake. But I believe that the arrest and almost immediate discharge of several United States marines, with a prompt apology, was not deserving of the sacrifice of a score of American lives. Mr. Wilson talks much about the dignity of the United States. He should have considered the dignity of the United States long ago, when hundreds of Americans and foreigners, for whom he has assumed responsibility, were being assaulted and killed in Mexico by both Federalists and rebels. To-day an old man, a citizen of the United States, is starving and starving to death in a foul rebel prison, and Wilson's demands that the man be freed are laughed at by the Constitutionalists. If the so-called insult to the flag justifies the killing of seventeen Americans, surely something should be done for the old man in the rebel prison.

And, after all, what does it amount to? When Huerta does retire, as he must, he can look back and say: "Well, it cost the Americans seventeen bright young men to do it."

Seventeen American boys are more to me than any "insult" to the flag that Huerta or any Mexican can inflict. Is there not blood on Mr. Wilson's hands?  
G. N. ARTS.  
Columbus, Ohio, May 6, 1914.

## THE NEW BANKING LAW

What the Old Political Economists Might Think of It.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: The old political economists would say of it, if the writer has read them aright, that it might fitly be entitled "An Act to Aggravate the Cause and Increase the Severity of Financial Panics," and they would add, by a means in itself costly, inflation rediscounting turned by its own influence upon business in times of abnormal stringency into specie rediscounting in effect.

The former, because the evil conditions—over-speculation, overproduction of the means of production, or overcost of production—alarmed the capitalist and impelling him to first turn his back on new enterprises, and a little later to back out of old ones, are intensified and prolonged by the easy loans in times of abnormal stringency, which is one of the proudest features of the new law.

The latter, because inflation rediscounting (that is, not with the currency already in existence, but with currency freshly manufactured for the occasion), although in normal times not really producing inflation, either of credit or of currency, yet does do both in times of abnormal stringency, the forerunner of panic. For in such times the demand for money in loans no longer corresponds to the demand for money for exchange of commodities, and the volume of currency, therefore, no longer fits with the volume of business, but has run ahead of it. In other words, the demand for bank credit no longer is an accurate barometer of business, but is this time based upon an expectation of business that will not be realized, a recession instead being due and already started in the turning down of new enterprises. So the inevitable result here follows: The drain of gold, which always attends inflation, and the redemption in gold of the Treasury rediscounting notes therefore demanded as a means of obtaining the gold.

But as these evil effects of the new law can occur only in the incubation or stringency stage of panics, they will be hap-

pily missing at the present time, for that stage is already passed.

Also, what may be happily missing in the present instance is the panic itself. For, from the fact that it has not closely followed the stringency, as usual, there is the very strongest reason for hope that this time, and in connection with the clarifying effect of the 1907 storm, the recession has been prompt and thorough enough not only to mitigate, but to prevent entirely.

But vain would have been this hope had the new law, with its overexpansion facilities and encouragements and the temper of the present administration, been in active existence for the last year or more.

Yet the simple expedient of a high discount rate in abnormally tight times would very effectually dispose of the above described evils and make the new law in these respects as good as the old one, and the excellence of the recently appointed board is an encouraging augury.  
GEORGE AUCHY.  
Tacoma, Philadelphia, May 8, 1914.

## JUDGE JONES, OF ALABAMA

Another Example of His Wisdom and Courage Is Cited.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: Your just encomium on United States Judge Thomas G. Jones, of Alabama, should not overlook another episode in which he rose even to a higher level of judicial wisdom and courage than in the railroad rate cases to which you refer. This ex-Confederate soldier is, I believe, the only federal judge who ever looked into the war amendments far enough to see that they empower the United States to protect its citizens against mob violence in default of such protection by the states. In ex parte Higgins, 134 Federal Reporter, 434, in 1904, Judge Jones held, in an elaborate judgment going fully into the constitutional questions, that participants in a mob which took a negro from the jail where he was awaiting trial on a charge of crime and lynched him by hanging could be indicted and punished in the federal court by virtue of powers conferred upon the United States by the Thirteenth and Fourteenth amendments. On appeal from this judgment, in Higgins vs. United States, 139, U. S., 547, the Supreme Court of the United States avoided the constitutional question and reversed the action of the lower court on a point of procedure.

The good work of lynching goes on, and the opinion of Judge Jones is unenforced if not unheeded, but none the less honor to him for it. His reasoning has never been answered. A. E. PILLSBURY.  
Boston, May 4, 1914.

## "THE AMERICAN RACE"

True Statements in the Form of Corrections of Something We Never Said.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: In your editorial under the caption of "The American Race" you purpose to show how very patriotic all those men have been, and you also show that many of those who fell are recent emigrants or descendants of immigrants bearing foreign names. It is with the greatest pain and surprise that I read the names of Fried, Bernstein, Schwartz, Freilichstein, etc., are classed by your paper as Russians, when it should be well known that they are most decidedly not Russians and hate and despise everything represented by the name of that country, where their fathers and forefathers have been trodden down and persecuted since the beginning of their history.

It is the Jewish-American love for this country which gives them homes, equality and liberty, that inspires them to fight and nobly and unselfishly to sacrifice their lives for the United States of America and the Stars and Stripes.  
MORRIS W. BERMAN.  
New York, May 4, 1914.

## THE CLOSED SHOP

The Right to Work Must Be Restricted. Urges a Unionist.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: After reading John Robertson's letter, which shows such a total incomprehension of the whole union situation, I feel that such a letter should remain unanswered lest it lead others unacquainted with true union conditions into the same fallacy.

Mr. Robertson states that a man cannot work at his trade unless he is a union man; that he is forced to join a union against his will; that he is forced to strike against his will, and that the majority of union men have no choice in the matter of a strike. He argues that in a land of freedom a man ought to have the right to work where he will and at whatever rate he will.

Now, anybody who knows the first principles of government or philosophy knows that a man is allowed all possible freedom as long as he does not infringe on the rights and welfare of his neighbors. A man has no more right to work at his own free will at a unionized trade than he has to rob or kill. Unions are the means of keeping the workmen as a whole from long hours, misery, unsanitary conditions and starvation. The man who is not a union man robs not only himself but the vast majority, union men, of their rights to live respectable lives and kills them and their families by slow misery, brought about by a starvation wage and unlimited working hours.

As for the statement that the great majority of workmen have no choice in the matter of a strike, any one informed knows that a strike is only voted by a majority of workmen, usually two-thirds or three-quarters. The statement that a man is not free to work unless he joins a union I have already answered above. I emphasize, he must give in to the tyranny of the majority for the good of the majority, the workmen concerned. From Mr. Robertson's letter we can only conclude that he is a petty boss, knowing nothing about true unionism and not realizing that a standard wage and standard hours are of the greatest benefit to the employer, since he then has a definite basis upon which to work and figure when he comes into competition with other men in his line.

J. HOROWITZ.  
The Bronx, May 5, 1914.

## A Crew from the Seven Seas.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: In your editorial to-day you call attention to the fact that about one-third of the names of our killed and wounded at Vera Cruz would have a wholly alien sound to English ears. Is another column you print the account of the rescue of a boatload of seamen from the burned British steamer *Columbiad*? Not one of the names of these men is English, two seem to be Irish, and the rest certainly originated on the continent. This is the list: James Drobat, Antonio Elias, Ivar Iversen, Ungar Prins, Jens Jensen, A. Abelnick, Gustaf Schirhorn, Thomas Connor, Juri Lei, Arthur Brantik, Antony Cordones, Bennett Rother, Frank Wedekind.

As Sherlock Holmes used to say, "What do you deduce?"  
H. K. A.  
New York, May 4, 1914.

## From a Lonely Girl.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: Will you publish in your paper the address of some club or meeting place where a young girl of nineteen could go to spend a pleasant evening once in a while? I am very lonesome sometimes and would like to become acquainted with some nice young people of both sexes. I've heard there are such clubs in the city. Perhaps some generous reader could suggest a place or two that may choose from.  
MISS KYRBIA.  
New York, May 1, 1914.

(She might join the Vacation Savings Fund, at 35 East 93rd st.; the Recreation Centre of the Young Women's Christian Association, at the Berkeley Theatre Building, 44th st.; where basketball, roller skating, dancing, etc., can be enjoyed, or the Working Girls' Vacation Society, at 165 East 23d st.—154 1/2)